

Message Text

SECRET

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EXDIS TOSEC 11

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CHANGED TO READ TOSEC 11)

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, GR

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH MAVROS

REFERENCE: TOSEC 3 (ATHENS 6910)

S/S PASS UNDER SECRETARY SISCO

FOR SISCO FROM RAPHEL

1. THE FOLLOWING BRIEFING ITEM FOR SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH MAVROS WAS PREPARED BY EUR AND PM. ONCE YOU GIVE YOUR CLEARANCE, S/S CAN ARRANGE TO HAVE ITEM INSERTED IN SECRETARY'S BRIEFING BOOK. SUGGESTED REPLY HAS DOD CLEARANCE.

2. BEGIN QTE: GREEK REQUEST FOR NAVAL CRAFT. BACKGROUND: ACCORDING TO AMBASSADOR KUBISCH, FONMIN MAVROS WILL RAISE WITH THE SECRETARY THE RECENT REQUEST BY THE GREEK NAVY FOR FOUR IN-SERVICE PATROL GUNBOATS, TWO IN-SERVICE DESTROYERS, AND TWO IN-SERVICE DIESEL SUBMARINES. MAVROS TOLD KUBISCH THAT HE IS CONCERNED BY THE IMBALANCE EXISTING BETWEEN GREEK AND TURKISH MILITARY STRENGTH AND THAT GREECE NEEDS TO STRENGTHEN ITS DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY IF IT IS TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE TURKS WITH ANY DEGREE OF CREDIBILITY. THE CHIEF

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OF THE GREEK NAVY INFORMED CHIEF JUSMAAG ATHENS THAT A SIGNAL

INDICATING PRESENT CIVILIAN GREEK GOVERNMENT IS GETTING
WARMEST SUPPORT AND RESPONSE IN VISIBLE HARDWARE OF U.S.
SHIPS COULD BE A MAJOR STEP TOWARD RESTORING FORMER U.S.-
GREEK BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP AND COULD BE POSITIVE FACTOR IN

ANY GREEK REASSESSMENT OF ITS DECISION ON MILITARY
WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO.

3. SUGGESTED REPLY TO MAVROS: AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST,
THE USG WILL BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE IN SUPPORTING
GREECE'S EFFORTS TO MODERNIZE ITS ARMED FORCES. THE
SPECIFIC REQUEST BY THE GREEK NAVY FOR PATROL BOATS,
DESTROYERS, AND SUBMARINES IS ALREADY UNDER URGENT CON-
SIDERATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. WE DO NOT KNOW
YET WHETHER ALL THE ITEMS REQUESTED ARE AVAILABLE IN
U.S. NAVY'S INVENTORY, AND, IF POSITIVE DECISION MADE, IT
MAY BE NECESSARY TO OBTAIN SUITABLE SUBSTITUTES. IN ANY
CASE, WE ARE GIVING THE GREEK REQUEST URGENT AND SYMPATHET-
IC ATTENTION, AND WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO GIVE A FORTHCOMING
RESPONSE TO THE GREEK REQUEST IN THE NEAR FUTURE. END QTE.
INGERSOLL

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